Compare and Contrast Classroom Management Plans

I have really enjoyed be able to observe my cooperating teacher’s classroom management strategies and techniques. She has complete attention of all her students during her lessons and even when they are working on problems at their seats. I think the reason that the students respect her so much is because she respects them. She trusts all of her students and treats them with respect. She told me once that she enjoys middle school age kids because you can have an intelligent conversation with them. Now middle school age kids can get out of hand and misbehave, however when a teacher trusts her students and treats them with respect more times then not they will treat the teacher the same way. This is one aspect that I really want to focus on in my classroom. I want to establish positive student-teacher relationships from the start of school.

I have also noticed that my cooperating teacher never raises her voice. She has complete control of the class with her normal voice. The students know that when she is talking they are not supposed to be. I think this is because in the first couple days of school she establishes strong and firm rules and procedures. I want my students to completely understand my goals and expectations for the year within the first two weeks of school. I think it is important, especially at the middle school level, to establish simple but clear rules and procedures. This way the teacher will have support during a misbehavior situation and also the student will not have to question what he/she can or can not do.

One way that my cooperating teacher relates with her students is she has various deals with them and she keeps her end as long as they keep theirs. One example is that she will never assign homework over the weekend. The students know that they will
have homework Monday through Thursday every week, no questions asked, but they will not have homework on Friday. I think the students see this as a reward for them doing their homework all week. I had never thought of this idea before observing my cooperating teacher, but the more I think about it the more I like the idea. If the students and teacher are on the same page the idea of classroom management is a lot easier in general. Plus the teacher always has the option to assign weekend homework if the students are not doing as they should.

When the students are working on homework, my cooperating teacher lets them grab a pillow from the back and lay on the floor. I understand this idea goes along with trusting your students, however from what I have seen laying down is more a distraction then anything else. This would be one thing that I might not allow in my classroom. I have not completely decided yet, because it does establish trust with your students but also serves as a distraction. When I was a student laying on a pillow when I did homework was not something that I was really looking forward to doing anyway, so maybe this would be one aspect of her classroom management strategies that I would not follow. I think the students can sit at their desks when they do their homework. Plus I want to make sure my students have a chance to get up and move in every class.

Overall I have really enjoyed observing her various strategies and techniques of classroom management. I have been really impressed with the job that she does with her classroom; I am yet to see it get out of hand once. The students respect her and she respects them and that is one goal that I really am striving to accomplish in my classroom.